

CENTRAL FIRE COMPANY CENTENNIAL

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the Central Fire Company in Warren, Rhode Island, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this weekend.

A nonprofit organization, Central Fire Company Number 1 was first registered on July 30, 1915, to provide volunteer firefighting services for the people of the town of Warren.

"The defenders of the North End and protectors of the world," as they are known, not only serve as critical first responders for the people of Warren, they have also helped to raise thousands of dollars for those less fortunate in their community.

In February 2003, the Central Fire Company provided critical assistance during one of the most destructive fires in our Nation's history, the Station Night Club fire.

Every day, in cities and towns around our Nation, first responders put their own lives in the line of danger so that they may protect their fellow citizens.

I salute the Central Fire Company on 100 years of service to the people of Warren, Rhode Island.

SECURE THE BORDER NOW

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday at a Judiciary Committee hearing, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson didn't know who Kate Steinle was. I hope he sure remembers his own Border Patrol agent Javier Vega, Jr., a father, husband, and south Texan.

Both of these fine Americans were gunned down by illegal aliens who had been deported multiple times, but were back in our country. Mr. Johnson couldn't tell me what percentage of the border was secure.

Last month I visited the border and talked to some hard-working Border Patrol agents who are very frustrated. They keep apprehending the same people again and again.

They are frustrated with our so-called catch-and-release program, where human smugglers called coyotes and drug smugglers with small loads or less than four or five people are simply let go.

We have got to secure our border to avoid tragedies like Kate Steinle and Javier Vega, Jr. For that matter, we need to secure the borders to keep us safe.

LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the Republican leadership to bring up a long-term funding transportation bill.

Rather than develop a long-term strategy, Republicans again want to pass a short-term extension for the highway trust fund that fails to make the appropriate infrastructure investments that our economy needs.

Our Nation's infrastructure is in a bad state, and it is critical that we make the necessary long-term, predictable investments in our country's roads, transit system, and highways that will create jobs, grow our economy, and offer a certainty for States to invest in larger, much-needed projects.

Mr. Speaker, 42 State chambers of commerce agree that "Our deteriorating national infrastructure is an issue that directly affects our ability to compete in the global marketplace and provide financial security for millions of middle-class American families."

It is time for the Republican leadership to stop kicking the can down the road with short-term fixes that are costing us more money in the long run, hurting our economy, and costing jobs.

I call on Republican leadership to bring up a long-term funding bill and stop playing games with America's crumbling infrastructure.

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the glaring issue of the persecution of Christians around the globe.

Our Nation was founded on the principles of religious liberty and tolerance, and the United States continues to promote these ideals. We must remain steadfast in our efforts to help individuals who are persecuted simply due to their faith.

Everyone around the globe, Mr. Speaker, should be free to live a life of faith, to worship as they choose, without fear of persecution from a ruthless regime.

This basic freedom, which was enshrined by our Founding Fathers, must not only be promoted here, but also around the world.

As a shining city upon a hill with the eyes of the world upon us, it is our Nation's duty to be a leader in the fight against the persecution of Christians.

As ISIS continues to attack Christians in the Middle East, we must continue to show that our Nation will stand up and defend those who cannot defend themselves.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 months ago House Republicans

refused to take the opportunity to extend the highway trust fund and, instead, decided to be reckless and kick the can down the road. Well, to no one's surprise, today we are back at it, faced with the same predicament.

How long will Republican leadership continuously refuse to govern? They have played the same political games with the funding of the Department of Homeland Security, which keeps our Nation safe from national security threats, and allowed the Export-Import Bank to expire, punishing American businessowners across the Nation. And now they want to gamble with the safety of millions of Americans who rely on our transportation and infrastructure, which is crumbling beneath us.

Enough is enough. We need a comprehensive and long-term surface transportation plan, not a short-term fix. The highway trust fund supports critical projects, which include improving the I-10 freeway in the Inland Empire, as well as countless other projects within the country.

It is time that we start governing and bring a long-term extension measured in years, not months. We don't need another short-term patch. It is time for real solutions.

IRAN DEAL

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have deep concerns about the direction the Obama administration has taken in reaching this agreement with Iran.

While I support all diplomatic efforts to promote peace and cooperation, there is little reason to believe this deal will halt Iran's nuclear program or that the Iranian regime is truly committed to rejoining the international community.

Even during negotiations, Iranian leaders have spewed hateful language toward the United States, Israel, and the Jewish people and have unapologetically continued their state sponsorship of terrorism.

Next week the bipartisan Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing that I am proud to chair will take a closer look at Iran's role in financing terrorist groups around the world, information that I feel is vital to the administration, to Congress, and the American people when reviewing any nuclear agreement with Iran that includes sanctions relief.

In the end, this announced deal is under congressional authority to review, and I will only support it if it meets the simple benchmark of forever preventing a nuclear Iran.

TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mrs. CAPPs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)